

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-23 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 14 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 12-14, 17, 22, and 23 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,552,723 to Duluk, Jr. *et al.* (hereinafter "Duluk") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,818,168 to May (hereinafter "May") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,483,515 to Hanco (hereinafter "Hanco"). (*See*, Office Action at p. 2.) Applicant traverses these rejections.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein at least one of an angle formed along a boundary between said first tile and said second tile is other than perpendicular and a portion of said boundary is a nonlinear curve[.]" None of Duluk, May, or Hanco, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests these features. Independent claim 14 has been amended in a similar manner. Thus, claims 1 and 14 are

patentable over Duluk in view of May and in further view of Hanko. Likewise, claims 2-13 and 15-23, which depend from claims 1 or 14, are also patentable over Duluk in view of May and in further view of Hanko. Claims 2-13 and 15-23 are also allowable because of their additional distinctive features. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider claims 1-23 and remove the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

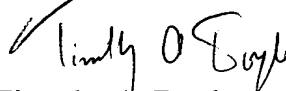
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Timothy A. Doyle
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 51,262

Date: 16 FEB 05

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600